

ASSEMBLY, No. 4112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.
District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires automatic registration with New Jersey Immunization Information System upon administration of vaccine for certain persons who consent to registration.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A4112 CONAWAY

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1 AN ACT concerning vaccinations and amending P.L.2004, c.138.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. Section 4 of P.L.2004, c.138 (C.26:4-134) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 4. a. There is established a Statewide automated and electronic
9 immunization registry, to be designated as the New Jersey
10 Immunization Information System, in the Department of Health.
11 The registry shall be designed to serve as a single repository of
12 immunization records to aid, coordinate, and help promote effective
13 and cost-efficient disease screening, prevention, and control efforts
14 in the State.

15 b. (1) A newborn infant in New Jersey, who is born on or after
16 January 1, 1998, shall be enrolled in the registry immediately
17 following birth unless the parent or legal guardian of the infant
18 provides a written request to not participate in the registry.

19 (2) A child born prior to January 1, 1998 may be enrolled in the
20 registry at the parent's or legal guardian's written request.

21 (3) Any person not currently enrolled in the registry shall be
22 enrolled at the time the person is administered an immunization,
23 unless the person or the person's parent or legal guardian, in the
24 case of a person who is younger than 18 years of age, provides a
25 written request to not participate in the registry.

26 c. Access to the information in the registry shall be limited to:
27 health care providers, schools, colleges, licensed child care centers,
28 and public agencies, and private organizations as determined by
29 regulation of the commissioner. A registrant, or the registrant's
30 parent or legal guardian if the registrant is a minor, shall have
31 access to the registrant's immunization and other preventive health
32 screening information in the registry.

33 d. The information contained in the registry shall be used for
34 the following purposes:

35 (1) to help ensure that registrants receive all recommended
36 immunizations in a timely manner by providing access to the
37 registrants' immunization records;

38 (2) to help improve immunization rates by providing notice to
39 registrants of overdue or upcoming immunizations; and

40 (3) to help control communicable diseases by assisting in the
41 identification of persons who require immediate immunization in
42 the event of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak.

43 e. The authentic immunization and other preventive health
44 screening record of a child, which shall consist of a paper or
45 electronic copy of the registry entry that is a true and accurate
46 representation of the information contained therein, obtained from

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the registry shall be accepted as a valid immunization and
2 preventive health screening record of the registrant for the purpose
3 of meeting immunization and preventive health screening
4 documentation requirements for admission to a school, college, or
5 licensed child care center.

6 f. A health care provider shall not discriminate in any way
7 against a person solely because the person elects not to participate
8 in the registry.

9 g. An authorized user granted access as provided in subsection
10 c. of this section shall only access information in the registry on a
11 specific patient or client who is presently receiving services, is
12 under the user's care or is within the applicable governmental health
13 authority's jurisdiction.

14 h. An agency, organization, or other entity authorized to access
15 information in the registry shall not use any report made by a health
16 care provider pursuant to this act in any punitive manner against the
17 provider.

18 i. The commissioner, in consultation with the Public Health
19 Council, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
20 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act, including, but not
22 limited to:

23 (1) the establishment and maintenance of the registry;

24 (2) the methods for submitting, and the content of, reports of
25 immunizations to the registry, for which purpose the commissioner
26 shall provide, to the maximum extent practicable, for reporting
27 options to facilitate compliance with the requirements of subsection
28 b. of this section;

29 (3) procedures for the birth hospital of a newborn infant or
30 health care provider, as applicable, to inform the parent or legal
31 guardian of a newborn infant or minor of the purpose of the registry
32 and its potential uses by parties having authorized access to registry
33 information, and the content of that information;

34 (4) procedures for a registrant, or the registrant's parent or legal
35 guardian if the registrant is a minor, to review and correct
36 information contained in the registry;

37 (5) procedures for the parent or legal guardian of a newborn
38 infant or minor, or a person over 18 years of age, to request to not
39 participate in the registry at any time and to remove or inactivate
40 information from the registry;

41 (6) limits on, and methods of, access to the registry by those
42 authorized pursuant to subsection c. of this section;

43 (7) procedures for health insurers to obtain immunization
44 information from the registry concerning only their covered
45 persons, as well as summary statistics, which information or
46 statistics shall not be used or disclosed for any other purpose than
47 to:

- 1 (a) improve patient care;
- 2 (b) provide quality assurance to employers purchasing group
3 coverage and to health care providers;
- 4 (c) improve outreach and education efforts with respect to their
5 covered persons and health care providers; and
- 6 (d) monitor and improve quality of care standards as developed
7 by professional organizations, accreditation agencies and
8 government agencies in collaboration with the department; and
- 9 (8) procedures for the department to disseminate statistical
10 information and supporting commentary.
11 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.340)

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13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18 This bill requires automatic registration with the New Jersey
19 Immunization Information System (NJIS) upon the administration
20 of a vaccine for persons who are not currently registered with the
21 NJIS and unless the person or the person's parent or legal
22 guardian, in the case of a person younger than 18 years of age,
23 provides a written request not to participate in the registry.

24 The NJIS is a Statewide database that maintains records of
25 individual vaccination histories. Individuals born after January 1,
26 1998 are automatically included in the registry, unless the
27 individual's parent or guardian provides a written request that the
28 person not be included in the registry; individuals born prior to
29 January 1, 1998 may be included in the registry by written request.

30 This bill requires any person who is not currently enrolled in the
31 registry to be automatically enrolled at the time the person is
32 administered a vaccine, unless the person or the person's parent or
33 legal guardian, in the case of a person younger than 18 years of age,
34 provides a written request not to participate in the registry.